

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /067 W
-----107422 231425Z /47

R 231200Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4040
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T SOFIA 0132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BU, IT, XG, XH, ETRD
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE ENTRY OF PCI INTO THE
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

1. MY ITALIAN COLLEAGUE, AMBASSADOR D'ALENA, HAS JUST INFORMED
ME THAT ON JANUARY 3 (AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY THE SOVIET AMBAS-
SADOR) FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV TOLD HIM THAT IF THE PCI
ENTERED THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE
FAVORABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR ITALIAN-BULGARIAN TRADE.

2. D'ALENA ALSO STATED THAT THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR HAD
INFORMED HIM THAT IN MID-DECEMBER THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT
HAD TAKEN A DECISION TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO ITALIAN FIRMS
WHERE THERE WAS A CHOICE AMONG WESTERN TRADING PARTNERS.
D'ALENA SAID HE HAD NO OTHER INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THIS REPORT.

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3. D'ALENA REPORTED BOTH OF THE ABOVE TO ROME BY DESPATCH
ON JANUARY 4, BUT HAS HAD NO RESPONSE, NOR DOES HE
EXPECT ANY ("THEY NEVER REPLY OR COMMENT"). D'ALENA IS
NOT INFORMING OTHER NATO AMBASSADORS HERE. HE BELIEVES
THE BULGARIANS, AND THE SOVIETS, MUST HAVE CONCLUDED
THAT THE ADVANTAGES OF PCI ENTRANCE WOULD OUTWEIGH RISKS
FROM EUROCOMMUNISM.

4. COMMENT: I ASSUME MLADENOV MADE A STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES INDICATED BY D'ALENA, AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE DONE SO ONLY WITH SOVIET APPROVAL. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW IF ANY OTHER COMECON COUNTRIES HAVE MADE DIRECT APPROACHES, OR INDIRECT ONES AS PERHAPS REFLECTED IN THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR'S REPORT (WHICH WE CANNOT EVALUATE, BUT WHICH EVENTS OVER TIME SHOULD VALIDATE OR DISPROVE).

GARTHOFF

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDMENTS, FOREIGN TRADE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SOFIA00132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780033-1118
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780133/aaaabbvp.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e3fa24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3730325
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BULGARIAN ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE ENTRY OF PCI INTO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.
TAGS: ETRD, PINT, BU, IT, XG, XH, PCI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e3fa24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014